Erika R. Moore-Pollard, PhD (she/her)

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., University of Memphis (UofM) – Biology **2018 – 2023**
"Investigating the impact of reticulate evolution and paralogy in phylogenomic studies using the complex genus *Packera* (Asteraceae: Senecioneae)"
Advisor: Dr. Jennifer Mandel

B.S., University of Tennessee, Knoxville – Ecology and Evolutionary Biology **2014 – 2018**

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE & ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Post-Doctoral Researcher, NSF-IOS: #2214472 **2024 – Current**
Advisor: Jennifer Mandel, UofM

Graduate Research Assistant **2023**
Advisor: Jennifer Mandel, UofM

Graduate Teaching Assistant **2018 – 2022**
University of Memphis

Lab Manager and Research Assistant **2018**
Susan Kalisz Lab, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Undergraduate Research Assistant **2014 – 2018**
Susan Kalisz Lab, Jen Schweitzer and Joe Bailey Lab, Elena Shpak Lab; University of Tennessee, Knoxville

PUBLICATIONS

 # Indicates undergraduate student
** Indicates co-first author*

8. Alan Yocca, Mary Akinyuwa, Nicholas Bailey, Brannan Cliver, Harrison Estes#, Abigail Guillemette, Omar Hasannin, Jennifer Hutchison, Wren Jenkins, Ishveen Kaur, Risheek Rahul Khanna, Madelene Loftin, Lauren Lopes, **Erika Moore-Pollard**, Oluwakemisola Olofintila, Gideon Oluwaseye Oyebode, Jinesh Patel, Parbati Thapa, Martin Waldinger, Jie Zhang, Qiong Zhang, Leslie Goertzen, Sarah Carey, Heidi Hargarten, James Mattheis, Huiting Zhang, Teresa Jones, LoriBeth Boston, Jane Grimwood, Stephen Ficklin, Loren Honaas, Alex Harkess. A chromosome-scale assembly for 'd'Anjou' pear. 2024. *G3*: jkae003. DOI: 10.1093/g3journal/jkae003. **Cover image**.
7. **Erika R. Moore-Pollard**, Daniel S. Jones, Jennifer R. Mandel. Compositae-ParaLoss-1272: Complementary sunflower specific probe-set reduces paralogs in phylogenomic analyses of complex systems. 2024. *Applications in Plant Sciences*. DOI: 10.1002/aps3.11568.
6. Jennifer R. Mandel, **Erika R. Moore-Pollard**, J. Mauricio Bonifacino. The Reinvention of Compositae: Vicki Funk's legacy in the systematics of the largest plant family on Earth. 2023. *International Journal of Plant Sciences*: 184(5). DOI: 10.1086/725047.
5. **Erika R. Moore-Pollard** & Jennifer R. Mandel. Packed with *Packera*: Brief history of the "aureoid *Senecio*" subgroup classification. 2023. *Capitulum* 2(2): 51-58. DOI: 10.53875/capitulum.02.2.04.
4. **Erika R. Moore**, Carolina M. Siniscalchi, Jennifer R. Mandel. Reevaluating genetic diversity and structure of *Helianthus verticillatus* (Asteraceae) after the discovery of new populations. 2022. *Castanea* 86(2), 196-213. DOI: 10.2179/0008-7475.86.2.196. **Cover image**; **Southern Appalachian Botanical Society Richard and Minnie Windler Award** (DOI: 10.2179/0008-7475.87.1.147).
3. J. Mauricio Bonifacino, Jennifer R. Mandel, Abigail Moore, **Erika R. Moore**, Benoit Loeuille, Lizzie Roeble. Capitulum: The Compositae Newsletter reloaded. 2021. *Taxon* 70(5): 1156-1156. DOI: 10.1002/tax.12571.
2. **Erika R. Moore**. What in the whorled: The rediscovery of *Helianthus verticillatus* Small (Heliantheae) over 100 years later. 2021. *Capitulum* 1(1): 61-64. DOI: 10.53875/capitulum.01.1.07.

1. Carolina M. Siniscalchi, Robert D. Edwards, Jorge Gomez#, **Erika R. Moore**, Jennifer R. Mandel. Photosynthesis metabolism in Asteraceae: current knowledge and future directions. 2021. *Taxon* 70(2), 339-350. DOI: 10.1002/tax.12426.

Accepted

Charles F. Keller, **Erika R. Moore-Pollard**, Ross A. McCauley. 2025. Taxonomic revision of the *Packera crocata*/*dimorphophylla* (Asteraceae: Senecioneae) complex in the southern Rocky Mountains. *Journal of the Botanical Research Institute of Texas* 19(1).

In review

Carolina M. Siniscalchi, Jacqueline Bonfim e Cândido, **Erika R. Moore-Pollard**, Jorge L. Gomez#, Sushil Dahal, José Rubens Pirani, Ryan A. Folk, Jennifer R. Mandel, Benoit Loeuille. Phylogenomics reveal widespread ancient hybridization in the evolution of Lychnophorinae (Vernonieae, Asteraceae). Target journal: *Taxon.*

Paige Ellestad*, **Erika R. Moore-Pollard***, Carolina M. Siniscalchi, Ramhari Thapa, Linda E. Watson, J. Mauricio Bonifacino, Jennifer R. Mandel. Ancient hybridization and phylogenetic discordance: Exploring evolutionary complexity in Asteraceae. Target journal: *Applications in Plant Sciences.*

Preprints

Erika R. Moore-Pollard, Jennifer R. Mandel. Resolving evolutionary relationships in the groundsels: phylogenomics, divergence time estimates, and biogeography of *Packera* (Asteraceae: Senecioneae). *bioRxiv.* DOI: 10.1101/2023.07.18.549592.

Erika R. Moore-Pollard, Jennifer R. Mandel. From paralogy to hybridization: Investigating causes of underlying phylogenomic discordance using the complex genus *Packera* (Senecioneae; Asteraceae). *bioRxiv.* DOI: 10.1101/2023.08.14.553290.

In-preparation

Daniel S. Jones, Reid Selby, Andrew C. Willoughby, Emily Yaklich, Pedro Jimenez Sandoval, Anna T. DiBattista, Jakub Baczynski, Vandana Gurung, Ashley C. Crook, Andra-Octavia Roman, Feng Wang, Teng Zhang, **Erika Moore-Pollard**, Riley Schuld, Jennifer R. Mandel, Paula Elomaa, John M. Burke, Julia Santiago, Zachary L. Nimchuk. Floral innovation through modifications in stem cell peptide signaling. Target journal: *Nature*.

Erika R. Moore-Pollard*, Brannan R. Cliver*, Paige Ellestad*, Jakub Baczyński, Matthew D. Pollard, Zach Meharg, Samantha Drewry, Alex Harkess, Zachary Nimchuk, John M. Burke, Daniel S. Jones, Jennifer R. Mandel. Comparative Genomics in Asterales: Foundations for understanding evolutionary and functional dynamics in Asteraceae. Target journal: *Nature Plants*.

Erika R. Moore-Pollard, Paige Ellestad, Jennifer R. Mandel**.** Phylogenomic challenges in polyploid-rich lineages: Insights from orthology inference and reticulation methods using the complex genus *Packera*. Target journal: *Systematic Biology*.

***Note**: Prior to 2023 I published as Erika R. Moore.*

SELECTED COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

DecodADAPT [**Key Collaborator**]: Investigation of drivers of floral diversity and evolution on islands.
Countries involved: Spain, United Kingdom, USA.

North American Astereae: Collaboration using taxonomy, systematics, phylogenomics, and computational approaches to understand the evolutionary relationships and historical dispersal patterns of tribe Astereae (Asteraceae) taxa across North America.
Countries involved: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, United Kingdom, Uruguay, USA.

Target-enrichment sequencing with MinION: Collaboration developing a novel method to generate long-read, target-enrichment sequencing data from Oxford Nanopore technologies (MinION).
Countries involved: USA.

AWARDS & FUNDING (Total USD $9,720)

UofM Graduate Student Association Travel Funds – $1,000 total	**2022 & 2023**
Botanical Society of America Student Travel Award – $500	**2023**
American Society of Plant Taxonomists Travel Grant – $670 total	**2019 & 2023**
Southern Appalachian Botanical Society Conference Support Award – $450 total	**2022 & 2023**

Southern Appalachian Botanical Society Richard and Minnie Windler Award – $500 **2022**
for "Best systematics paper published in *Castanea* during the previous year"
Southern Appalachian Botanical Society Student Presentation Award – $300 **2022**
for "Best oral presentation" at Association of Southeastern Biologists conference 2022
Association of Southeastern Biologists Student Research Award – $1,000 **2022**
for "Best oral presentation and associated published paper" at Association of Southeastern Biologists conference 2022
Center for Biodiversity Research Seed Grant – $4,500 total **2019 & 2022**
Botany Conference 2022 Symposium Funding – $500 **2022**
UofM College of Arts and Sciences Travel Enrichment Fund – $300 **2019**

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Kew Royal Botanical Gardens: Advances in Compositae phylogenomics – London, UK – Talk **2024**
"New Compositae specific probe set reduces paralogs in complex systems"
Memphis Area Master Gardeners – Memphis, TN – Talk **2024**
"Herbaria: the foundation of plant research"
Plant and Animal Genome Conference: Compositae Session – San Diego, CA – Talk **2024**
"Systematics, Evolution, and Genomics in the Sunflower Family"
Association of Southeastern Biologists Workshop: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion **2022 & 2023**
Committee on Human Diversity – Panelist
UofM Department of Biological Sciences Workshop: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion **2022**
Committee – Panelist
Association of Southeastern Biologists: Plant Conservation Genetics symposium – Little Rock, AK – Talk **2022**
"Reevaluating genetic diversity and structure of *Helianthus verticillatus* (Asteraceae) after the discovery of new populations"
Georgia Gwinnet College – via Zoom – Talk **2020**
"Graduate school and research"

CONTRIBUTED PRESENTATIONS

International Botanical Congress Conference – Madrid, Spain – Poster **2024**
"New Compositae specific probe set reduces paralogs in complex systems"
Plant and Animal Genome Conference – San Diego, CA – Poster **2024**
"New Compositae specific probe set reduces paralogs in complex systems"
Botany Conference – Boise, ID – Talk **2023**
"Compositae-ParaLoss-1272: Complementary sunflower specific probe-set reduces issues with paralogs in complex systems"
Botany Conference – Boise, ID – Poster **2023**
"Investigating underlying discordance and hybridization among nuclear phylogenies of *Packera* (Asteraceae)"
Association of Southeastern Biologists Conference – Winston-Salem, NC – Talk **2023**
"Phylogenomics, divergence time estimates, and biogeography of *Packera* (Asteraceae: Senecioneae)"
Association of Southeastern Biologists Conference – Winston-Salem, NC – Poster **2023**
"Compositae in a Crate: an outreach initiative to promote plant awareness"
Botany Conference – Anchorage, AK – Talk **2022**
"Reconstructing evolutionary relationships in the genus *Packera* (Asteraceae: Senecioneae)"
Botany Conference – Online – Poster **2021**
"Reconstructing evolutionary relationships in the genus *Packera* (Asteraceae: Senecioneae)
Evolution Conference – Online – Talk **2021**
"Understanding the systematics and evolutionary history of the genus *Packera* (Asteraceae: Senecioneae)"
Association of Southeastern Biologists Conference – Online – Talk **2021**
"Reevaluating genetic diversity and structure of *Helianthus verticillatus* (Asteraceae) after the discovery of new populations"
The International Compositae Alliance Talks – Online – Talk **2021**

"Reevaluating genetic diversity and structure of *Helianthus verticillatus* (Asteraceae) after the discovery of new populations"

Botany Conference – Tucson, Arizona – Poster **2019**

"Newly discovered population of Helianthus verticillatus (Asteraceae) found in Mississippi is genetically distinct from other known populations"

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Journal Editor

Reviewing Editor – *Applications in Plant Sciences* **2024 – Current**

Associate Editor – *Capitulum* **2021 – Current**

Guest Editor – *Journal of Systematics and Evolution* Special Issue: "A Botanist at the Extreme: Honoring the Great Contributions of Dr. Vicki A. Funk" **2022 – 2023**

Reviewer

Journals *Castanea, Cladistics, HortScience*, *Evolutionary Applications*, *Molecular Biology and Evolution, Systematic Botany, Taxon* **2022 – 2025**

TEACHING/MENTORING EXPERIENCE

Teaching

University of Memphis

Biology of Organisms Lab – non-Biology major course **2018 – 2022**

Course-based Undergraduate Research Experiences (CURE) – Synthetic Biology **2021**

Guest Lecturer

University of Memphis

Honors Biology I, Dr. Jaime Sabel – Meiosis **2024**

Molecular Ecology and Conservation, Dr. Jennifer Mandel – Conservation Genetics **2023**

Mentoring workshops

University of Memphis

Coding workshop (1 week) – mentored four graduate students on bioinformatics in the Biological Sciences Department **2024**

Lab training (1 week) – trained three visiting high schoolers and one undergraduate student (Rice University) on wet lab and computer work **2023**

Phylogenomics coding workshop (5-weeks) – mentored four undergraduate and two graduate students in the Biological Sciences Department **2023**

UNDERGRADUATE MENTEES

Victoria Holyfield, UofM **2023 – Current**

Bria Gooden, UofM **2023 – Current**

Mariah Mattison, UofM **2023 – 2024**

Paris Fouche, UofM **2023 – 2024**

Edgardo Cruz-Martinez, UofM **2023 – 2024**

Laura Lightbody, UofM **2023**

Sam Drewry, UofM **2022 – 2023**

Jorge Gomez, UofM **2019 – 2021**

Paige Murin, UofM **2018 – 2019**

Byanca Moreno, University of Tennessee, Knoxville **2016 – 2018**

POST-BACCALAUREATE MENTEES

Keiana Fields, UofM **2022 – 2023**

Jorge Gomez, UofM **2021 – 2022**

CENTER OR SOCIETY POSITIONS

The International Compositae Alliance **2025 – Current**

TICA Talks webinar series organizer

Botanical Society of America **2025 – Current**

Early Career Advisory Board member

Capitulum **2021 – Current**

Associate Editor and Founding Editorial Board member
Center for Biodiversity Research (UofM) **2019 – 2023**
Research Facilitation Committee
Botany Conference Symposium organizer **2021 – 2022**

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Society of Plant Taxonomists (ASPT)
Botanical Society of America (BSA)
International Association of Plant Taxonomist (IAPT)
Tennessee Plant Conservation Alliance (TPCA)
Association of Southeastern Biologists (ASB)
Center for Biodiversity Research (CBio)
Southern Appalachian Botanical Society (SABS)
The International Compositae Alliance (TICA)

ORGANIZATION INVOLVEMENT

The International Compositae Alliance Compositae Journal Club, member **2020 – Current**
UofM Book Club, organizer and member **2020 – 2022**
UofM Biology Graduate Student Association, Vice President **2020 – 2021**
UofM Botany Club, Secretary **2018 – 2020**
UofM Biology Graduate Student Association, Secretary **2019 & 2020**
UofM Committee for Diversity in Science, member **2018 – 2019**
UofM Journal Club, member **2018 – 2019**
UofM Writing Club, member **2018 – 2019**

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND OUTREACH

NSF funded project for primary education students (“Compositae in a Crate”) **2018 – Current**
UofM Botany Club – various outreach opportunities **2018 – Current**
Overton Park – City Nature Challenge plant specialist **2024**
Memphis Botanical Garden – Halloween Hike **2018 & 2022**
Museum of Science and History (MoSH) STEAMFest – herbarium focused **2021 & 2022**
Collect Japanese honeysuckle for Genomics Capstone class at West Virginia University **2022**
UofM Garden cleanup, CBio associated **2021**
National Lab Day at UofM **2019**
International Women in Science Day events with local public schools, Memphis, TN **2019**
“Waste Tire Cleanup Day” at T.O. Fuller State Park **2019**
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Chronic Wasting Disease check sites **2018 & 2019**
“Talk to a Botanist” Day at Campus School; Memphis, TN **2018**